Message Text

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R 111555Z DEC 73 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2276 INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

UNCLAS ROME 13726

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, IT, CA

SUBJ: L'UNITA CORRESPONDENT REFUSED ENTRY INTO CSR

- 1. INSIDE ARTICLE IN DECEMBER 11 L'UNITA REPORTS ON REFUSAL OF CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES TO PERMIT L'UNITA CORRESPONDENT IN BUCHAREST, SILVANO GORUPPI, TO ENTER CSR TO COVER BRANDT VISIT. ACCORDING L'UNITA, GORUPPI ISSUED VISA IN BUCHAREST DECEMBER 7 AND TRAVELED BY AIR TO PRAGUE FOLLOWING DAY. UPON ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT, GORUPPI INTERROGATED FOR TWO HOURS AND THEN INFORMED, WITHOUT EXPLANTION, THA HE COULD NOT ENTER UNTIL AFTER DECEMBER 15. AFTER 25 HOUR WAIT IN TRANSIT LOUNGE (AND NOT EVEN A HOTEL, NOTES L'UNITA) GORUPPI RETURNED BY FIRST PLANE TO BUCHAREST.
- 2. IN ITALICIZED COMMENT FOLLOWING ARTICLE, L'UNITA EXPRESSES SURPRISE AND PROTEST AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES. NOTING THAT GORUPPI WAS SENT AS JOURNALIST TO COVER IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL EVENT, L'UNITA CHARACTERIZES DECISION TO EXCLUDE HIM AS DISCOURTEOUS, INCOMPREHENSIBLE ACT WHICH RUNS COUNTER TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.
- 3. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT GORUPPI WAS CORRESPONDENT IN PRAGUE FOR NUMBER OF YEARS SPANNING PRAGUE SPRING.BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

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